

WEST BLOCK HOUSE
FORT MACKINAC, MICH

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for drawings, see:

HABS MI-213 sheets 4, 5

WEST BLOCK HOUSE OF FORT MACKINAC
Mackinac Island, Mackinac County
Michigan

OWNER - State of Michigan.

CUSTODIAN - Mackinac Island State Park Commission - Mr. Manfred
Burleigh, Chairman.

DATE OF ERECTION- 1798

ARCHITECT - Unknown

BUILDERS - American artisans and soldiers attached to Fort Mackinac.

PRESENT CONDITION - Fair.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION - Limestone for the basement and first
story walls and squared timbers above. Wood floors
and roof.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS - Reference to the Block House is contained
in inspection reports of the War Department from 1797
to 1853. No original drawings have been found.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The West Block House was undoubtedly built by
the American forces after their occupation of the
fort in 1796. We know that it was complete in 1800
(Report of Uriah Tracy to Secretary of War dated
December 20, 1800) and it was probably built during
1798. From its small size and original lack of a
chimney and fireplaces, I believe this Block House
to have been the first constructed at Fort Mackinac.

The first and basement stories of the Block House
are of limestone blocks, quarried on the Island. The
walls are 2' thick. The second story is of 7" horizon-
tal timbers pinned together and projecting 20" beyond
the stone work below. The roof is supported on hewn
timbers mortised together and the log walls are well
tied together at the eave line with mortised and
tenoned timbers.

The above information was taken from a report compiled by the writer
on the history of Fort Mackinac. It was prepared for the National
Park Service during 1934 and entailed months of careful research.

Signed "Warren L. Rindge
District Officer
November 10, 1936